

--33. A program storage device readable and executable by an auction apparatus for performing an auction method, the apparatus connected to a plurality of bidder terminals via a network, said method including the following steps:

providing information on a product to be auctioned via the network;

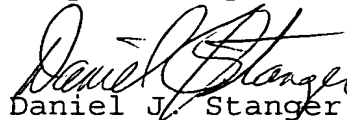
collecting a desired price for the product and a maximum margin of the price acceptable to pay proposed by each bidder via the network; and

if the desired price proposed by one of the bidder coincides with the desired price proposed by another bidder and the auction assumes a competitive state, for resolving the competitive state in accordance with the maximum margins proposed by the competitive bidders.

REMARKS

The Applicants request entry of the foregoing new claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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